

Committee: Ordinary Council	Date: 2 December 2020
Subject: Public Questions	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Jean Sharp	Public
Report Author/s: Name: Jean Sharp Telephone: 01277 312655 E-mail: jean.sharp@brentwood.gov.uk	For Information

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, a member of the public resident within the Borough may ask a maximum of two questions relating to the business of the Council providing notice has been received by 10.00am two working days before the relevant meeting.

In light of the current restrictions due to the pandemic, members of the public are not allowed to enter the Town Hall therefore may attend Council meetings and put their questions remotely. Alternatively, they may request that their questions are put to the relevant Member by the Deputy Mayor at an Ordinary Council meeting.

Every question asked pursuant to rule 11.1 of the Constitution shall be put and answered without discussion but the Member to whom the question has been put may decline to answer. An answer may take the form of a direct oral answer at the Council meeting or where there has been insufficient time to research an answer, a written answer will be sent to the questioner. Time for all questions from members of the public shall be restricted to 15 minutes in total. At the expiration of that period of time, any questions which have not been asked shall be answered in writing and the answer placed with the minutes.

Mrs Pat Smith had submitted two questions:

1. Regarding the Covid19 pandemic and support for vulnerable people in Brentwood:

Given that social care has been subjected to huge cuts by central government and as a result many vulnerable and disabled Essex people have been priced out of basic care, by Essex County Council - what are Brentwood Council's areas of responsibility to such people in Brentwood during the Covid19 pandemic, especially during lockdown, and in what ways did the council ensure that everybody was reached and their basic needs were met?

2. Regarding Residents Questions at Ordinary Council: If part of a residents question is missed out when it is read to the Leader and Councillors in the chamber (in public), or the Leader does not answer the question properly, or if the questioner has been misunderstood or is misrepresented in the answer, should the Resident be granted a right of reply, to set the record straight, to be published in the subsequent minutes of that meeting?

Mr Will Russell had submitted two questions:

1. Brentwood Council have a responsibility to maintain a safe environment in our open spaces. There is growing concern that some dog walkers do not have their dog fully under their control.

Whilst the law is specific about the penalties, many are not aware of the fines or what is considered a dog not under control. Many Brentwood residents suffer from cynophobia and are fearful of using our outside spaces.

Will Brentwood Council liaise with Essex County Council to raise awareness of this situation either by signage on dog waste bins, their publications or on their websites?

2. Over the last couple of months I have witnessed unsafe parking outside Thorndon Country Park and Weald Country Park. Whilst lockdown is encouraging the use of these parks there is growing concern for the dangers this irresponsible parking is causing.

Will Brentwood Council Liaise with Essex County Council to find a solution for this dangerous situation?

Ms Susan Kortlandt had submitted two questions:

1. What progress has been made in negotiations with the mobile 'phone companies re the siting of new masts near Brentwood Station and when will these be installed?
2. I understand that the Brentwood Centre is likely to be re-opened soon, which is very welcome. Can you tell me how this will affect organisations which have items stored in the centre?